

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 11, cancels claim 6 and adds new claim 13. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 and 13

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim (US 4563933). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 1, is directed to a string-instrument type electronic musical instrument. The instrument comprises a sounding section, such as a speaker, a light emitting section and a tone generating section that generates a tone through the sounding section. The sounding section is positioned on the body of the instrument to correspond to a sound hole of a string musical instrument.

Claim 1 has been amended (with claim 6 canceled) to recite that the light emitting section is provided “in a position corresponding to said sounding section.” Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification including, without limitation, at page 14, lines 1-3 and Fig. 2A which shows a ring-shaped lamp 8B positioned along the outer periphery of the speaker S.

This arrangement has many benefits as set forth on page 14, line 22 to page 15, line 22. If the light emitting section is used for guiding performance, the player can easily see when he or she must operate an operator. Moreover, the placement of the light emitting section provides illumination for the player so as to prevent erroneous operations. Finally, the audience can easily see the light emitting section and its illumination can highlight the user’s hands.

Kim discloses a conventional guitar that is equipped with LEDs 30-93 on the guitar body (see Figure 1). The guitar also includes tilt switches and the dynamic movement of the guitar allows the user to select a mode for sequential illumination of the LEDs (see Col. 2, lines 15 to 63).

Kim fails to disclose a “tone generating processing section that generates a tone through the sounding section” as recited in claim 1. As discussed above, Kim discloses a standard or conventional guitar (see Col. 2, line 15 and Col. 3, line 37). There is no disclosure or suggestion of a tone generating processing section as recited. The Examiner cites to Fig. 3(a). However, the circuitry disclosed in Fig. 3(a) is for illuminating the LEDs and not for generating a tone through said sounding section.

Kim also fails to disclose a light emitting section “in a position corresponding to said sounding section” as recited in claim 1. The LEDs of Kim, as illustrated in Fig. 1, are merely arranged along the periphery of the guitar body. It is noted that Kim discloses that the placement of the LEDs are not critical (see Col. 3, lines 40-43). In contrast, the placement of the light emitting section in the claimed invention is, because the light emitting section not only provides illumination for the audience, but also for the user as well. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Kim.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-10 and new claim 13 – all of which depend from claim 1 – are not anticipated by Kim for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 11 and 12

The Examiner rejected claims 11 and 12 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 11, is directed to a string-instrument type electronic musical instrument. The instrument comprises a sounding section, a light emitting section provided “in continuous shape along an outer periphery of said sounding section” and a tone generating processing section that generates a tone through said sounding section.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is not anticipated by Kim for at least two reasons. First, Kim fails to disclose the recited tone generating section as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Second, Kim fails to disclose a light emitting section provided in a continuous

shape. As illustrated in Fig. 1, Kim merely discloses 64 *individual* LEDs positioned in a dot-configuration and, thus, not in a continuous shape. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 and its dependent claim 12 are not anticipated by Kim for at least these two reasons.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 393032044000.

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Respectfully submitted,

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